

101-125 West Duffy Street
Savannah Victorian Historic District
Savannah
Chatham County
Georgia

GA-1169-F

HABS,
GA,
26-SAV,
53F-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

SANANNAH VICTORIAN HISTORIC DISTRICT

107 WEST DUFFY STREET

HABS No. GA-1169F

Location: 107 West Duffy Street, south side of Duffy Street between Whitaker and Barnard Streets, Savannah, Chatham County, Georgia.

Present Owner: John W. Lyons, 1208 Barnard Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401 (1979).

Present Use: Apartments.

Significance: The house at 107 West Duffy Street is one of the few structures remaining in the Victorian Oistrict which dates from the 1860s and which stood in the Frew and Webb development of Oglethorpe Town.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1867.
2. Architect: Not known.
3. Original Owner: Burrell L. Boulineau, Master of Machinery for the Central of Georgia Railroad. Boulineau came to Savannah from Richmond County, Georgia, and bought the lot from Mary Frew, the widow of James Frew, developer of Oglethorpe Town. It appears from the deed records that Boulineau borrowed \$3,000 from the Workingman's Mutual Loan Association to construct his house in 1867. He paid it back at the rate of \$30 a month. The property is now located on lot 26, Gallie Ward.
4. Alterations and additions: The 1888 Sanborn Insurance Map indicates that a two-story double tenement with a one-story rear wing existed on the site. The 1898 Sanborn Map shows the addition of a bay window on the east half of the double tenement (107), a small addition on the east side of the house, and a rear addition which would have extended the hall. The Gothic bay window thus appears to have been added between 1888 and 1898, together with two new rooms. This corresponds with newspaper articles of the 1890s which note the number of bay windows and additions being built on older houses. The rear porch has been enclosed and a second addition added to the south. Originally this double tenement was a single family dwelling; at some time each side was subdivided into an upper and a lower apartment.

For background information, see Savannah Victorian Historic District, HABS No. GA-1169.

B. Bibliography:

Deed Book 3 Z 190, and Deed Book 3 Z 175, Superior Court Record Room, Chatham County Court House, Savannah, Georgia.

Insurance Maps of Savannah, 1888 and 1898, Sanborn Map Company, New York.

Savannah Morning News, microfilm, Georgia Historical Society.

Prepared by: Beth Lattimore Reiter
Project Historian
Historic American Buildings
Survey
August, 1979

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: 107 West Duffy Street is the eastern half of a two-story double tenement. This townhouse has a steep gable roof typical of earlier townhouses, but its bracketed eaves place it after the Civil War. An ornamental Gothic bay window was added between 1888 and 1898.
2. Condition of fabric: Fair. The western half, 109, was damaged by fire in the summer of 1979 and the water from the firehoses damaged the ceilings and electrical system in 107.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The two-story structure measures 23'-3" across the front facade by 63'-3" deep.
2. Foundations: Brick pier over a crawl space.
3. Wall construction: Clapboard siding, painted gray.
4. Framing: Wood frame construction.
5. Porches, stoops: A two-story front entrance porch, supported by four brick piers, is approached from the east side by five concrete block steps. Plain square tongue-in-groove decking covers the floor. Square wooden balusters span the box columns. The second-story porch is supported by similar posts and topped by a gable roof. A mansard-like skirt visually divides the porch's first and second story. There is a screened porch on the south (rear) elevation.
6. Chimneys: One interior chimney with a smooth stucco finish projects through the ridge of the roof. Each half of the double tenement has a chimney.

7. Openings:

- a. Doorways, doors: The two front entrance doors are framed by a simple surround. Each is a cottage door with glass in the upper half and panels below. There is a door to the second-floor porch with a two-light transom above.
- b. Windows and shutters: A two-story bay with five lancet-arched windows in each story has been added to the north facade. The windows in the bay's second story are filled with colored glass. Rectangular recessed panels are located below the first-story lancet windows. Decorative brackets trim the area between the first and second story, below a similar mansard-like skirt as that on the porch.

A louvered attic window is in the east end gable of the house. All other windows have six-over-six-light double-hung sash.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: A gable roof with standing seam tin sheathing covers the main block. The rear addition also has a gable roof with a standing seam tin covering.
- b. Cornice, eaves: The main block is trimmed with bracketed eaves on the north facade.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. First floor: Side-hall plan. The stair has been enclosed to provide private access to the upper apartment. Originally the house was two rooms deep with a rear porch. The porch has been enclosed to provide a third room, and a second porch has been built to the rear of the original one. A small one-story addition provides a closet off the hall, and the hall has been extended to provide three additional small rooms including a bath and kitchen.
- b. Second floor: Side-hall plan with two principal rooms and a small room at the south end of the hall.

2. Stairways: A straight flight ascends the east side of the hall.

3. Flooring: Hardwood floors throughout.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: All ceiling surfaces have been covered with sheetrock. The walls are plaster, painted or papered. A picture molding trims all principal rooms in the main block.

5. Doorways, doors: Wooden four-paneled doors throughout.

6. Decorative features and trim: The four principal rooms of the main block have fireplaces with wooden mantels. The rectangular openings are framed by a plain frieze and rectangular pilasters supporting a simple mantel shelf.
7. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Heating, airconditioning, ventilation: The house was originally heated by wood-burning fireplaces, later converted to coal. The present heating system is by gas space heaters.
 - b. Lighting: The present system is electric. There is no visible evidence of an earlier system.
 - c. Plumbing: There is no indication of whether there was an original indoor bath.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The house faces north, and is built on the lot line.
2. Outbuildings: 107 West Duffy Street stands on the north half of the lot. In 1888 there was a one-story kitchen in the yard of 107, and a one-story lane cottage. These have both been demolished. A one-story shed stands adjacent to the lane.

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PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with the City of Savannah, the Historic Preservation Section of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, the Savannah Landmark Rehabilitation Project, Inc., and Historic Savannah Foundation. The recording project was completed during the summer of 1979 under the general direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS; Kenneth L. Anderson, Principal Architect; Eric Delony, Project Coordinator, Savannah Landmark Rehabilitation Project, Inc.; Beth Lattimore Reiter, Project Historian, Savannah Landmark Rehabilitation Project, Inc.; and Susan Dornbusch, Project Supervisor, University of Virginia; with student architects Gregori Anderson (Howard University), David Fixler (Columbia University), Stephen Lauf (Temple University), and Tamara Peacock (University of Florida), at the HABS Office in Savannah, Georgia. The drawings were edited in the Washington office in September 1979 by architects Susan Dornbusch and Gregori Anderson. The historical and architectural data was reviewed and edited during October-November 1979 by staff historian Jan Cigliano. Photographs were taken in September 1979 by Walter Smalling, a staff photographer with the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service. The documentation on the historic district will be used in the rehabilitation of the residences and in developing design guidelines for the area.